

# California GARDEN

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1996

Volume 87 No. 5

\$1.50



# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

## SEPT. 3-8

**THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY** Conference & Topiary Show. Hyatt Riqueys, Palo Alto, CA. Call 436-0460. \$3.

## SEPT. 8

**AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY** Flower Show. Quail Botanical Gardens Foundation, Encinitas. Ecke Bldg. Sun. 10AM-3PM. \$3.

## SEPT. 10

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basketry Get-together. Renew or make new. See page 158. RSVP 232-5762. \$5 or \$10/\$15.

## SEPT. 17

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class. New California Native Material Coil Basket. See page 158. 232-5762. \$20.

## SEPT. 18

**CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF NORTH COUNTY** Program, Jimmie Fox, Orchids Ltd. of Carson. Womens Club of Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe St. Carlsbad. 7PM. 753-6952. Donation.

## SEPT. 21

**THE HUNTINGTON** 13th Annual Succulent Symposium. 1151 Oxford Rd. San Marino. Sat. 8:30AM-5PM. 818/405-2141. \$7.50.

## SEPT. 24

**PEOPLE FOR TREES** Slide Show. "Flowering Trees of San Diego" by Cindy Drake. 743 Imperial Ave. at 8th Ave. 6:30-8PM. 234-TREE.

## SEPT. 24 - OCT. 1 & OCT 8

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Flower Arranging. Velma West, Instructor. See page 158. RSVP 232-5762. Series \$35.

## SEPT. 28-29

**SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB** 31st Anniversary Fall Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat & Sun 10AM-5PM. Free.

## OCT. 5-6

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** 7th Fall Plant Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. & Sun. 10AM-4PM. \$5.

## OCT. 11-12

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Fall Plant Sale. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. 9AM-5PM. 818/952-4401. \$5.

## OCT. 12

**CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY** Plants, Bulbs, Seed Sale. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. 10AM-2PM. Call 277-9485.

## OCT. 12-13

**SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN FOUNDATION** Orchid Show & Sale. 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes Peninsula. Sat. Noon-5PM; Sun. 9am-4PM. 310/544-1948. \$5.

## OCT. 15

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Quarterly Dinner Meeting/Program. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Speaker, Bruce Asakawa "Gardening in San Diego" Tues. 5:45PM Social. RSVP 232-5762. \$5. Or \$7 at Door.

## OCT. 15

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** 10" Succulent Wreath Class. Materials provided. See page 158. RSVP 232-5762. \$20.

## OCT. 19-20

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY** Fall Mini Show. Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat. Noon-5PM; Sun. 10AM-4:30PM. Free.  
**THE HUNTINGTON** Cactus & Succulent Show. 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. Sat & Sun 10:30AM-4:30PM. 818/405-2141. Fee.

## OCT. 19-21

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Rose Show, L.A. Rose Society. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. Thurs.-Sat. 9AM-5PM. 818/952-4401.

## OCT 22 & 29

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Basket Class. Large basket. 2 Days. See page 158. 232-5762. \$30 member; \$35 nonmember.

## OCT. 23

★**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** Bus Tour. Los Angeles Garden Show, Arcadia. Wed. See page 158. RSVP 232-5762. \$37/40.

## OCT. 23-27

**THE LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW** Features: Style Gardens, Designer Tablescapes, Rose and Hat Gallery, Plant Market & Cooking Demonstration. The Arboretum of L.A. County, 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 818/447-8207. Gate \$8.

## OCT. 26-27

**DESCANSO GARDENS** Chrysanthemum Show. 1418 Descanso Dr., La Canada Flintridge. 9AM-5PM. 818/952-4401. \$5.

## MONTHLY (SEPT. 9)

**SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** Speaker C. Kline, Horticulturist. Satellite Wagering Facility, Del Mar Racetrack. Mon. 6:30-9PM. Call 630-7307.





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San Diego Floral Association  
for 86 Years

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Send all editorial material and change of address to:

*California Garden*  
San Diego Floral Association  
2125 Park Boulevard  
San Diego CA 92101-4792

*California* SINCE 1909  
**GARDEN**  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS NO. ISSN 0008-1116

San Diego Floral Association  
2125 Park Blvd  
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Monday through Friday  
10:00AM to 3:00PM

VOLUME 87

NUMBER 5

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SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1996

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COVER illustration of *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Mexican palo verde or Jerusalem thorn) by Alfred D. Hottes (1892-1955). Among his myriad activities was editing *Better Homes and Gardens* for many years and editing *California Garden* for part of the 1940s and 1950s.

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Single copies of the current issue of *California Garden* magazine can be purchased for a donation of \$1.50 at the locations listed.

CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION, INC., 447-8207, 301 North Baldwin Ave., Arcadia CA 91006  
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**FLOWER SHOWS:** Show chairman contact *California Garden*, 232-5762 if you want the magazine sold at your show.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN (ISSN 0008-1116) is published Bi-Monthly for donations of \$7.00 per year or \$13.00 for two years, foreign delivery add \$6.00 per year, by San Diego Floral Association, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4792. © San Diego Floral Association, 1992. All rights reserved. Second Class Postage paid at San Diego CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to CALIFORNIA GARDEN, 2125 Park Boulevard, San Diego CA 92101-4792.

## ONGOING EVENTS

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS** 230 Quail Garden Dr., Encinitas. 9AM-5PM. 436-4032.

**BLUE SKY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE** Walks. Poway. Sat & Sun 9AM. 486-7238.

## BALBOA PARK:

**SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN** Docent Tours. 232-2780. Fee.

**OFFSHOOT TOURS** 1HR. Meet Botanical Lath House. 10AM. Saturdays 235-1121. Free.

**INTERPRETIVE WALKS** Ranger guided. Visitors Center. 10AM Wednesdays 235-1211.

## Deadline for submission to

**HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR** for

Nov./Dec. issue is **Sept. 15**. **SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION** is not responsible for changes that are submitted late by the organizations.

## GARDEN TALKS AT

### BUENA CREEK GARDENS,

418 Buena Creek Road, San Marcos, Calif. 744-2810

SEPT. 7, **Fall Planting in Southern California**

SEPT. 14 **Dividing Iris**

SEPT. 21 **California Natives**

SEPT. 28 **Dividing Daylilies**

Programs begin at 10:00AM. Garden tours begin at 11:00AM. All programs are free.

## BETTY NEWTON CLASSES

6:30-9:30PM

**Cutting Your Water Bill in the Garden:**

**The Right Plants; The Right Way**

Tuesday Nights, Begins September 3, 1996

5 weeks, 6 sessions \$15

**Flower Gardens: Year-Round Color with Annuals, Perennials, Bulbs, and Old-Fashioned Roses**

Tuesday Nights, Begins October 8, 1996

12 weeks \$23

**Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers (Fall Emphasis)**

Wednesday Nights, Begins September 4, 1996

14 weeks \$23

Grossmont High School, Room 51

1100 Murray Drive, La Mesa

Thursday Mornings, 9:00AM-12:00NOON

**Landscaping: Trees, Shrubs, and Flowers (Fall Emphasis)**

Begins September 5, 1996

14 weeks \$23

Foothills Adult Education Center, Room 12

1550 Melody Lane, El Cajon

Questions: 579-4795 and 579-4790



One of the *Parkinsonia aculeata* (Mexican palo verde) trees at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Village Place, San Diego (see cover)

## MEXICAN PALO VERDE TREE Our cover feature

*Parkinsonia aculeata* is a tree that can grow to more than 20 feet, with a light, airy branching structure, so sufficient light reaches the ground for a lawn to be grown beneath. Leaves grow on ribbon-like streamers.

The flowers are usually yellow with a red spot at the base, blooming throughout the year. This Mexican palo verde tree prefers sun and well-drained soil, but will grow in a moist climate; it tolerates alkalinity.

Compiled by J. Coleman

# Gleanings . . .

## WATER VEGETABLES . . .

Vegetables need regular watering to mature at their best. Other plants can withstand periods of no water but not vegetables. As water is expensive in this area and the rainfall is not adequate, many gardeners use raised beds and even containers for growing vegetables for home use. The following table shows the percentage of each vegetable that is water.

Asparagus	91.7
Broccoli	89.1
Cabbage	92.4
Cauliflower	96.0
Celery	94.1
Cucumber	92.4
Lettuce	95.0
Potato	79.8
Radish	94.5
Tomato	93.5
Watermelon	92.6

Now you understand why regular watering is so important.

## KEEP FLOWERS LONGER . . .

Two homemade solutions for helping to keep cut flowers fresh longer are:

To one quart of water

- (1) add ½ teaspoon chlorine bleach  
one can of regular lemon-lime soda; or
- (2) add 1 tablespoon sugar  
2 tablespoons of lemon juice  
2 tablespoons of bleach.

## MEXICO CROSSING . . .

It is tourist season and you will be taking guests across the border. Colorful places that they (and we) enjoy are the local markets. Many food items can be brought legally into the United States. Each adult can bring one quart of alcohol. Most canned foods are acceptable — but no preserved, canned or fresh pork. Sometimes other meats are prohibited. You can bring back bread, candy, cookies and coffee. Flowers without roots are fine. The approved products are acorns, bananas, cactus fruit, cactus pads, cornhusks, dates, grapes, limes, litchis, melons, Mexican jumping beans, nuts, papayas, pineapples, tamarind bean pods and most vegetables but no potatoes, yams or sweet potatoes.

A brochure *Travelers Tips* can be obtained from the Department of Agriculture (Program Aid No. 1083). This information is from the 1993 issue.

## DEL MAR FAIR EXTRA . . .

Did you enjoy the Fair this year? Just so you will be ready for next year — it will run from June 17th through July 6th in 1997.

The winners in each category for the 1996 Flower & Garden show are:

Best Maintained Garden—Weidners Gardens of Encinitas  
Professional Floral Design—Solana Beach Florists  
Miniature Floral Design—Dixie Dahl (San Diego)  
Gladiolus Sweepstakes—Sherry Dallman (El Cajon)  
Dahlia Sweepstakes—Basset Orchids (Oceanside)  
Roses Sweepstakes—Philip Ash (San Diego)  
Amateur Floral Design—Marion Bancroft (San Diego)

## PLANTS TO THE RESCUE . . .

Phytoremediation — the use of plants to absorb pollutants from air, water, and soil — is being explored by U.S. government agencies and private corporations. At this time, sunflowers are being used to help clean ponds of radioactive materials in Chernobyl, the Ukraine. The plants are on floating gardens that hold twenty-four sunflowers. The plants do not metabolize the radionuclides but the cesium 137 stays in the roots and most of the strontium 90 moves to the shoots. After about three weeks in the pond the plants are disposed of as radioactive waste. In the United States, almost all radioactive sites belong to the Department of Energy, and sunflowers are being used to remove uranium from contaminated water.

Trichlorethylene (TCE) is one of the most common ground-water pollutants. It was once used for dry cleaning and as a degreasing agent. It has been found that the roots of poplar trees, that can reach a depth of up to 50 feet, are particularly fond of TCE. In experiments conducted at the University of Washington it was found that 95% was absorbed. It isn't known yet if the chemical stays in the roots, stems, and leaves of the plant. It is felt that any TCE that the leaves would transpire into the air would quickly break down in sunlight and be harmless.

Plant scientists realize that plants have evolved sophisticated metabolic and sequestration mechanisms to detoxify a wide variety of chemicals. Plus there are all kinds of microbes and fungi associated with the plants that help break down chemicals. This knowledge has led to many experiments with plants to try to solve the serious pollution problems that are developing. Unfortunately, the public, particularly those controlling funds, don't realize the importance of plants in our whole scheme of life on this large terrarium we call earth. Without clean air, clean water, and plants we would cease to exist!



# WILD AND CRAZY: ANISE SWALLOWTAILS AND THE CARROT FAMILY<sup>©</sup>

by PAT PAWLOWSKI



**THE ANISE SWALLOWTAIL** (*Papilio zelicaon zelicaon*) is truly a wild and crazy butterfly. To start with, it is a butterfly with an attitude. It floats through the garden with a lazy carefree gliding flight, as if it owned the place. It is a beautiful yellow-and-black color, and is fairly large, about 2½ to 3 inches. It has two tail-like projections, perhaps resembling a swallow's tail, on its hind wings. It likes to play in mud. Actually, the behavior is called "puddling"—adult male swallowtails gather in groups, and siphon up water and salts from places like mud puddles and stream banks. The male swallowtail also engages in "hilltopping," which means he hangs around the tops of hills and other high areas, hoping to spot a female. (It beats going to singles bars.)

For those who aren't familiar with the butterfly life cycle, here is a brief synopsis: After mating, the female adult butterfly lays an egg on a plant; the egg hatches into a tiny caterpillar (larva); the caterpillar eats part, or sometimes all, of the host plant—that's why you should put in more than one plant—and eventually, after it has eaten enough, the caterpillar pupates and emerges as a full grown, gorgeous butterfly. The adult then begins its never-ending search for two things; nectar, which it sips from a large variety of flowering plants (the adult never eats leaves like it does in the larval stage); and a mate, located perhaps in your very own garden.

Once upon a time, I encountered a swallowtail larva sitting on one of my parsley plants; I looked at it, and it looked at me. At that time, I didn't know what variety of butterfly it was—only that it was nifty-looking: a plump, sassy individual with green, yellow and black stripes. I tentatively put out my finger, as if to touch it, and that cuddly-looking little thing reared its little head up as if to scare me, a creature (according to several acquaintances) hundreds of times larger than itself. Surprisingly, then, a tiny orange forked projection (osmaterium) protruded from the swallowtail's little head; out came a puff of scent (somewhat resembling the smell of some of those perfume sample sheets in magazines). I backed away, knowing when I had met my match.

To experience wild and crazy adventures like this, all you have to do is to include the appropriate plants in your garden, and the anise swallowtails will come.

In order to attract the optimum amount of swallowtails, the canny butterfly gardener should provide food for both the larval and adult stages of the butterfly.

## LARVAL-FOOD PLANTS:

**Carrots.** It works out perfectly; the swallowtail larva eats only the leaves and you eat only the root.

**Parsley.** Plant a little plot, and there will be plenty for both you and the swallowtail larvae.

**Wild anise or sweet fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*). Be warned—although this is probably the favored larval-food plant, fennel is invasive and can grow quite tall. Since butterflies like soft new plant growth rather than older leaves, you can always cut fennel back and it will sprout anew. In fact, you probably couldn't kill this plant with an ax.

**Citrus.** Although they seem to prefer fennel, anise swallowtails have been known to lay eggs on citrus.

**Indian biscuit root or wild parsley** (*Lomatium* species). Native perennial, possibly hard to find.

**Cow parsnip** (*Heracleum maximum*). Native perennial; try seed catalogs or call the California Native Plant Society.

## FAVORITE NECTAR PLANTS:

**Butterfly bush** (*Buddleia*). A favorite of many butterfly species.

**Verbena.** Likes sun and heat, as do butterflies.

**Lantana.** Easy to grow; comes in many different colors. Hummingbirds like it too.

**Mint** (*Mentha*). The roots can be invasive so it is better to grow mint in a pot.

**Joe-Pye weeds** (*Eupatorium* spp.). Native perennial.

**Daisies** (*Chrysanthemum* spp.). Many types, such as ox-eye and Shasta daisies.

**Zinnia.** Many colors and sizes.

Some of the above plants, especially the natives, like dry, well-drained soil; others like regular watering. Consider your own garden situation, take along the plant list, and buy accordingly. Remember, the plants must please the butterflies and you, too.

## OTHER THINGS TO TRY:

Make a mud puddle by leaving an area of bare earth. You might even sink a dirt-filled, non-draining pot or basin into the ground, keep it moist, and see if you get any winged customers. Make a few mud pies if you feel like it.

Place butterfly-attracting plants in a sunny part of the yard.

If possible, try to mitigate the wind. Butterflies like serene, sheltered areas.

Don't use pesticides! A successful butterfly garden is





Anise Swallowtail Butterfly, Photo by Dorcas Utter

a healthy, non-toxic place where people, pets, and wildlife can breathe clean fresh air.

If you follow some of these suggestions, soon you'll be having your own wild and crazy swallowtail adventures.

*Text copyright by Pat Pawlowski, who is a writer and wildlife garden designer. (see page 153)*

## CAMELLIAS FOR POTS, PORCHES, AND PATIOS

by EDALEE HARWELL

THE CAMELLIA PLANTS THAT arrived in England on the sailing ships of the East India Company from the Orient were considered "stove" plants or "pot" plants. This was in the days when the glasshouses of the wealthy were heated by stoves and "pot" meant container. It was assumed that camellias were delicate because the earliest plants seen by Europeans were in China in the homes of rich Chinese families where it was customary to display these winter-blooming beauties in decorative containers.

The notion persisted even after early plant hunters like Wilson and Fortune reported that wild camellias flourished in the mountainous interior of China where they often survived extremes of weather. When 'Alba Plena', a splendid white formal double still popular today, brought camellia culture to America, it was treated like the most delicate and fragile of exotics.

The true nature of the camellia was revealed finally in the South during the days of prosperity and leisure before the Civil War. The great homes and estates of the plantations were landscaped with imported plants, including camellias. In the rich soil and shelter of huge oaks, the camellias grew into flowering trees.

City folk found out about this too, as reported by a family in Louisiana, "Our first camellia, a 'C.M. Hovey' ('Colonel Firey'), planted in the front yard thirty-eight years ago has caused us no little inconvenience. It has grown so large that on two occasions we had to change the position of the entire entrance walk." Another problem with city-lot gardens is that invariably one camellia plant leads to several more. The collection tends to grow as purchases are augmented by grafts

and seedlings, until eventually the only solution is to buy the lot next door. Or, perhaps, move to South Africa, like the garden enthusiast who "brought the plants and antique Japanese garden ornaments along but left the furniture behind."

If moving to South Africa, buying the lot next door, or investing in a plantation are not in your future, camellias still can be. In fact, with no time to garden and open space reduced to a small patio or balcony, you may find a camellia the perfect solution for that need for a bit of growing green.

With the vast selection available today, there is a camellia with color and form to suit every taste and a growth habit for every use. The 1990 edition of *Camellia Nomenclature*, published by the Southern California Camellia Society, remains the recognized authority world wide. Described are the various cultivars, how they grow, when they bloom, the flower, and where they originated (including the grower, when known). Listed are 104 pages of the common *Camellia japonica*; 4 pages of the more sun-loving *C. sasanqua* (which flowers earliest and can be grown as a hedge or ground cover); 23 pages of the aristocratic *C. reticulata* (Espaliered against a wall or free standing, they show off the huge 6- to 8-inch flowers.); 14 pages of the dainty hybrids (to prune into small trees or train for hanging baskets); and 5 pages of miscellaneous *Camellia* species, some with colored, patterned, and serrated or fish-tail leaves. There are even camellias now with fragrance.

The secret is to "...go back where the whole thing started—back beyond the potted greenhouse plants, back



'Alba Plena'

to the old Chinese gardens where camellias have been grown in containers for centuries." This advice is found in the 1954 *American Camellia Yearbook*, published by the American Camellia Society. The article, "Growing Camellias in Containers," by Claude Chidamian of Los Angeles, originally appeared in the 1947 edition of the *Yearbook*, which even by 1954 was out of date. Not so, the information as summarized below:

Camellias, unlike many large flowering shrubs, are exceptionally handsome, decorative, long lived, and well suited to pot culture. They will thrive indefinitely in relatively small containers and do not mind being root bound, provided they are fed and watered regularly. ... C. M. Hovey, describing his famous collection in *The Garden* (1884), wrote: 'Some of the stems of our plants measure 13 inches in circumference at the ground and are growing in 21- and 28-inch tubs.' My own collection of several hundred container-grown camellias includes a number of plants over 25 years in age and 8 feet in height, which are growing and blooming freely in 20-inch clay pots. ... The requirements for growing camellias in containers successfully are not many, but imperative. Shade, moisture, rich acid soil, drainage—these cover the essentials.

#### POTTING

The best time to pot or repot camellias is during the months of January and February. ... A pot-bound plant must be placed in a larger container or growth and bloom will cease, but an immature plant will resent any unnecessary handling. ... The moisture content of the soil should be checked before potting. Too wet a soil will pack too tightly, and too dry a soil will be difficult to wet again. Squeeze the soil in the palm of your hand, and if it forms a ball that will just hold together, it is satisfactory. ... In nine cases out of ten sick camellias, the plant is set too deeply ... the delicate feeder roots "drown"... The feeder roots also die if allowed to dry out too thoroughly, and even months later the buds will fall or refuse to open. ... A light mulch of bir bark looks pretty and helps protect feeder roots.

#### WATERING

Potted camellias seem to grow best when uniform amounts of water are always present in the soil. This condition can best be achieved by watering the plants heavily at infrequent intervals. The soil should be allowed to dry to a medium point, then a heavy application of water pushes out the carbon dioxide accumulated in the soil, and as the water drains away, new air circulates into the soil from above. By this means also, roots grow throughout the entire soil

mass and an occasional drying of the upper crust causes no damage. The critical period in watering camellias occurs during the months of March, April and May ... If you think the soil in the pot will go one more day, the chances are that it should be watered at once. During the summer ... potted camellias need a high degree of atmospheric humidity to mature their growth buds properly. Increase the amount of moisture in the air by means of a fine spray [syringing] ... avoid full sun (which may scald and burn the leaves). Leaf temperatures during the day are generally higher than the surrounding atmosphere and only by free transpiration can the leaves keep cool ... syringing is not watering. It is intended only for the foliage and not for the roots of the plants.

#### FERTILIZING

Potted camellias must be given adequate fertilizer to replace the nutrients leached out by frequent watering or by absorption into the plant ... The limited root area in containers increases the harmful effects of over-fertilizing, consequently, food must be added sparingly and only when needed. [The author suggests a light feeding in December, a second one in February and a third and last in April. Current practice is to feed in March, May and July.] Never feed a dry or sickly plant; and better feed too little than too much.

#### PRUNING

Potted camellias may be pruned freely to reduce their size and improve their shape. Turn the container occasionally to encourage symmetrical development on all sides. ... should be disbudded every year, leaving only a single flower bud to a terminal ... so thinned that the quality of the bloom and vigor of the plant is retained. ... The ground area in the containers and around them should be kept clear of old leaves and blooms. ... As with human disorder, cleanliness, light, and air are powerful remedies for most camellia ills.

One final quote from the *Yearbook* is timeless: "The best thing about camellias is the people you meet."

*Edalee Harwell, a second-generation San Diegan, is a long-time member of camellia societies from local to international. She works at the San Diego Zoo.*

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** The San Diego Camellia Society's First Annual Camellia Show was held February 8, 1948, in the American Legion Hall on Fairmount Avenue. Although the entrance fee was only 25¢, the one-day show earned \$200.00.

(continued on page 150)

# THE SHRUB THAT ROARS

by CATHERINE L. ZINSKY

LION'S-EAR IS NO shrinking violet. Like the lion, this shrub is not to be ignored. Upon your approach, it verily roars its presence.

Belonging to the *Labiatae* [alt. *Lamiaceae*], (Mint Family), *Leonotis* is a small genus consisting of about thirty species of annuals and perennials indigenous to Africa. One of the more popular in temperate climates is *L. leonurus*, otherwise known as lion's-ear [or lion's tail]. It can be a tall shrub of 6-7 feet, or it can be used as a container plant and kept pruned as a smaller shrub (My own specimen is in the ground and maintained between 5-6 feet.)

*L. leonurus* is a tender shrub, meaning it cannot endure freezing temperatures. Lion's-Ear will tolerate some cold, however, down to 29°F (-2°C). Given the colder side of the scale, *L. leonurus* will most likely go deciduous, that is, lose its leaves. No matter; it springs right back. It is a robust bush, and looks and handles better if given a severe winter pruning before it initiates new growth. I lop my own down to about a foot, cut out cross branches, and ritually convince my husband that I've done it in. A bit of warmth and sun is all it takes to tickle lion's-ear out of dormancy and back to verdancy.

The rich green foliage of *L. leonurus* is a lovely backdrop in the garden; moreover, it's wonderfully effective as cut foliage for your arrangements. I use it all the time as filler in bouquets. The leaves are botanically categorized as oblanceolate, which broadly means they're long, thin, and tapered. Lion's-Ear leaves are 3-5 inches long. The edges of the leaves are softly serrated, giving them a pleasant texture as well. But, of course, the real treat is when this shrub flowers.

Blooms commence in summer and continue well into fall. Lion's-Ear flowers are a soft orange, more like

orange sherbet than the hotter orange found in some of the marigolds, for instance. In other words, it's definitely orange, but it's not brassy. The flower petals are soft and hairy and tubular. (I guess like the inside of a lion's ear?) These 2-2½ inch tubes are in clusters that arc out from the receptacle in whorls at regular intervals up the stalk of the flowering stem. They are really quite delicious.

As cut flowers they're superlative, albeit potentially

messy once those hairy orange tubes are finished being pretty and begin the shed. I personally prefer using a flowering stem that has been stripped of its leaves, allowing the whorls themselves to be more evident — if indeed hairy, orange, 2-inch tubular flowers can be less than evident. But removing the leaves from the stem does open it up more. In an arrangement lion's-ear greatly enhances or is enhanced by bird-of-paradise (strelitzia), nasturtiums, chrysanthemums, some rudbeckias, most sunflowers, and zinnias.

If an orange flowering shrub will positively not suit, take heart: now showing is a white cultivar, *L. leonurus* 'Albiflora'. It has all the same attractions as its cousin, but has hairy white tubular flowers instead.

*L. leonurus* is a waterwise shrub as well. In fact, overwatering can actually cause harm, even

death. Seedlings can generally be found in most nurseries, commonly in the herb section. If you know of someone who already has one, ask for a division or cuttings to start your own. In any event, you'll want to have one; unlike Dorothy's lion, this one does not lack courage.

Good luck and happy gardening . . . ☐

Catherine Zinsky is a free-lance writer for garden and canine publications.

Photograph by Nancy Petitti.





# INSPIRATION POINT CENTRAL COURTYARD

by CAROLINE ANNE SAUNDERS

THE ANTIQUATED COURTYARD AT the old Naval Hospital has received a "face-lift." The newly designed Inspiration Point Central Courtyard, situated on the grounds of the original U.S. Navy Hospital, has combined old and new architecture in what was once the central courtyard in the middle of the original hospital buildings. The restructuring of the central courtyard is part of a Master Plan adopted in 1989. It includes several improvements throughout Balboa Park to be completed over the next twenty years.

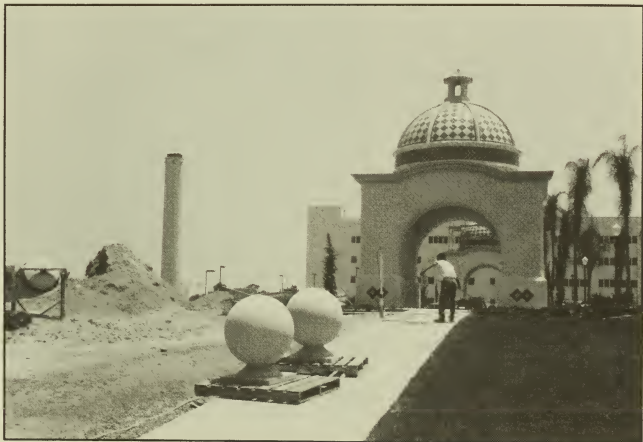
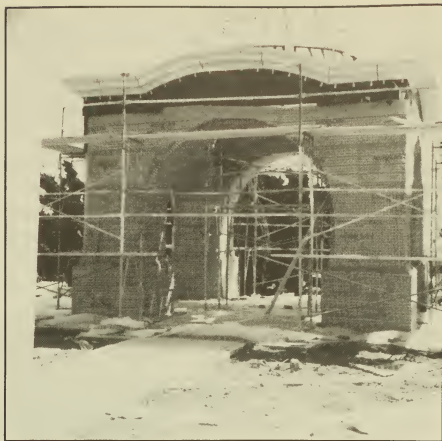
The old Naval Hospital, situated off Park Boulevard, has been almost completely demolished since closing its doors as a hospital in 1988. In 1988 the hospital had approximately 30-40 buildings, but only three structures have been left intact in the area returned to the City. One, an original building, overlooks three picturesque courtyards designated as historic sites.

"The only remaining buildings are the Navy Chapel [built during WW II], which is now the Veterans Memorial Chapel, and the Navy Library [a relatively new building], which is currently being used by a Native American group," said Balboa Park Horticulturist, Kathy Puplava. "The other structure is Building One [the original hospital building constructed in the 1920s], which was the Navy Administration building but is now the Park and Recreation Balboa Park Administration building."

Almost hidden from view behind the Administration Building is the newly reconstructed courtyard. To the south and north are remnants of the other two courtyards. The central courtyard has been restructured to resemble some of its original appearance, but the remaining courtyards will only be restructured if funds are made available. Originally, the courtyards were located in the center of the hospital buildings; however, there are no current plans to enclose them within a new compound.

"When the buildings around the courtyards were destroyed the definition of a courtyard changed," said Puplava. "They (the landscape architects) seem to have tried to recreate that feeling of enclosure in the center court area of Inspiration Point."

Inspiration Point Central Courtyard contains a mixture of old and new architecture. It has captured some of the century's early craftsmanship and combined it with some of today's ornamental art without making it into a cheap replica. Mosaic covered dome structures, similar to the design of mini-temples,





sit in the four corners of the garden giving the impression of an enclosure—a new feature to the old courtyard. The mosaic is in the form of red, blue, and yellow tiles. In the middle of the courtyard, surrounded by a lush, green lawn, a large, carefully preserved water fountain has been restored and decorated in the same mosaic style as the domes; although the tiling is new, the Navy emblem has been worked into the design.

Visitors can stroll at their leisure beside beds of petunias and marigolds edged with lobelia, or they can rest on one of the stone tiled seats placed at different intervals along the pathway. Queen and date palms line the courtyard providing some shade to the gardens.

The central courtyard overlooks the south courtyard, which is on a lower level. It contains an original pond and fountain. To the north, lies the remaining courtyard that has a grassy area with a few shrubs in a circular effect.

Leading off from the north courtyard is the site for a new activity center for sports enthusiasts.

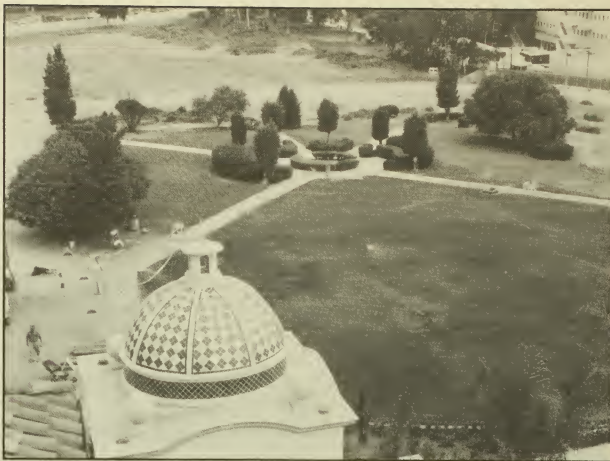
Inspiration Point Central Courtyard is an ideal spot for special occasions like weddings and photographs, and plans for booking wedding ceremonies have begun. “We anticipate the central court area to be open for weddings when the maintenance period is over, but if

construction starts on the new activity center, then access could be difficult and unsafe and we would have to restrict public use,” said Puplava.

Meanwhile, visitors may stroll in the courtyard during weekdays from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Parking is available in the main parking lot off 1900 Pedestrians Way. For more information contact the San Diego Park and Recreation Department Central Division, 2125 Park Boulevard, 619/235-1100. For wedding ceremony reservations, call the department at 619/235-1103. □

*Caroline Saunders is a journalism major, with an emphasis in public relations. Her work is published in newspapers.*

*Photographs: page 138, first two by J. Coleman, third photo by Ken Kjoller, page 139, top by J. Coleman, bottom photo by Ken Kjoller.*



*Looking west, in upper left of photograph, is part of area slated to be the site for a new activity center for sports enthusiasts.*



# WEEDS — INVASIVE PLANTS AND PEOPLE

by RON SISSONS

ACCORDING TO MY WIFE, a weed is anything growing in the wrong place, like “a lonely little petunia in an onion patch.” My wife says if it has no right to be there, dispatch it, shake it out by the roots, throw it out on the compost pile. Yet this tidy-mindedness of my wife, and unscored millions like her, believing as they do, could have devastated the culinary perfection of the apple pie, in Britain, that is. It was a chance find of an apple seedling amongst the weeds that produce the number one cooking apple in Britain — the Bramley.

I never slide a hoe through a gaggle of weeds without being prepared to stop at the sight of one seedling that looks different. Two years ago, in my Southern California home, I saw one seedling weed that had something extraordinary about it, apart from its growth in an impossible bankside spot. I left it alone, but kept my eye on it expecting it would die for the lack of water. But the seedling, conscious of scarcity of water, pushed its roots deeper and deeper into its ungodly location to obtain the nourishment it needed to survive, in fact to grow. The weed, this incorrigible outgrowth from its bankside scene, grew up and presented itself as a lovely purple clarkia. What is more, this bankside nomad produced seed, which I scattered around my roadside flower bed. Several clarkias came up including a delightful salmon pink. Those which came up purple I discarded. I saved the seed from this direct descendant of the lone bankside stranger, and scattered the seed over another flower bed location. I await the results in my continuing adventure! Was the original purple clarkia seed deposited out of a cloud of dust blowing up our street? From where?

That above was an act of God plus keen observation on my part, but it was the real estate developers' act that allowed a strip of ground across the road to grow a crop of sow thistles, *Sonchus oleraceus*. They actually paid a man to water them regularly. The sow thistle seeds formed an airborne armada, which drifted across the road and settled in my garden. After a running fight with the developers over their bad judgment they put in some ice plant. In the meantime, I have a steady job of ridding my garden of sow thistle seedlings. Every so often we have a tumbleweed, *Amaranthus graecizans*, come down the hill and pass over my garden, spilling out seeds as it goes rolling, rolling along. And so along with the gift from the developer, the sow thistle seedlings, I have the gift from the derelict ranch land of tumbleweed seedlings.

One weed that I am loath to decimate is the scarlet pimpernel. This charming little weed/plant warns us of showers-a-coming by folding up its tiny scarlet petals — a habit that has earned it the name of the poor-man's-

weatherglass. Here is a weed that somebody in the plant breeding world should elevate to a desirable-sized flower head and then place it on flower seed racks in nurseries and stores.

One weed that I would like to eliminate appears without fail in greenhouse pots or tubs. It is that aggressive weed, *Oxalis corniculata*, and its red-leaved form with small yellow flowers and creeping, rooting stems. But that is not all, for it throws its seeds, with no help from mortals, far and wide. In my San Diego garden it has grown up around my outdoor fruit tree. This is a weed you cannot eradicate, only suppress. They actually grow these scoundrel weeds as plants in England, particularly for filling in crevices in paved paths.

*Oxalis*, to which the wood sorrel belongs with its shamrock-type leaves, also has some plants in my roadside flower bed — *O. purpurea* with its improved forms and rose, white and lavender flowers. This plant is not aggressive or weedy. This all goes to show that a plant is not a weed until it shows up in a spot you don't like, with an invasive weedy appearance.

I suffer from one such weedy plant that survives by underground runners, namely morning glory or bindweed, *Convolvulus arvensis*. The only thing I can do is to pull it up whenever it has made aerial growth that I can grab hold of, breaking off its underground runners. They go down so deep as to make digging them up impractical. If I'm lucky, I shall, after five years of unremitting labor, have gained the upper hand. In the meanwhile I must go on, casting a look ahead of my hoe in the hope that I can save that little seedlings deposited in my yard by happenstance, which at a later date will give me pleasure.

Believe it or not, in Europe one dainty, yet invasive little plant, has been listed as a pernicious weed to be controlled by a particular chemical herbicide. I refer to the plant called mind-your-own-business in England or in this country baby's tears or angel's tears, botanically *Soleirolia soleirolii*. I have known it as a dense mat of luxuriant small green rounded leaves and creeping stems, cool looking and ideal for the space under a greenhouse bench or to carpet a terrarium or outside in some shady place. It may be invasive but it is not difficult to control. A pernicious weed — never!

I can control my invasive plants, as a matter of fact, I love my plants that infringe over the pathways edges, like *Begonia* 'Richmondensis' that transgresses over the sidewalk with its arching stems or the *Verbena rigida*, flatly spreading, that looks on a pathway edging as just another passing obstruction, and the ivy-leaved geranium

(continued on page 150)



# PENDULOUS PLANTS

by ROBERT HORWITZ

SMALL GARDENS LIKE THE ones on a condo or apartment balcony need plants that are easy to care for and are pleasant to look at. Here are four plants that can fill this niche. They can be described as those that have hanging characteristics similar to animal tails. They fall gracefully from a hanging container, are easy to care for and have eye appeal.

*Sedum morganianum*, or donkey tail, is an attractive hanging plant to place in a shaded nook on the balcony, or hang from a branch of a tree, where it can be observed and commented upon. It is a slow growing succulent with tough long stems that produce teardrop-shaped leaves that are rounded and are a light green in color. As these stems grow, the leaves start out as small droplets, which, as they mature, grow to about an inch long and a quarter of an inch in diameter. Often the main stems produce side stems that make a whole array of hanging tails emanating from the main stem, each with its groupings of teardrop leaves.

The donkey tail is very slow growing, taking several years to reach the stage where there are many hanging stems from the same container. After several years, or when any of the stems reach maturity, the tip of the stem will produce small blossoms that will last a month or more and then dry up and fall off. You can expect the stems to reach up to three feet in length. Gradually, the mature stems will decline as evidenced by the leaves dropping off. When it reaches this stage, cut off the old stem and discard it. Fertilize the plant gently to spur new growth.

The *S. morganianum* does not take handling very well, and you must be careful about knocking off the leaves. It

is very drought resistant, yet seldom shows the effects of over watering. If the temperature gets below freezing for a day or two or the temperature soars because of Santa Ana conditions, you will notice some leaf drop. The plant recovers readily, however. Soil for the roots should be on the sandy side to allow for good drainage. After several

years of happy culture, you can expect to have as many as ten mature tails growing from a six-inch pot.

In contrast to a fleshy-leaved plant consider the spider plant, technically known as *Chlorophytum comosum*. This plant will grow well either indoors or out-of-doors in San Diego especially along the coast and where it can have a shady environment. The initial growth consists of long variegated striped, ivory and green, grass-shaped leaves that will reach up to two feet in length when mature. After the first leaves grow out, the spider plant will send out pups on long stems that will hang below the parent plant replicating the parent plant characteristics. This sequence of growth will continue for sometime as the plant gets older. The spider plant will look its best when grown in a hanging basket container. Use a general-purpose soil mix after lining the basket with sphagnum moss. Water often and fertilize when new growth begins. Trim back the old and shabby stems and leaves when they get



*Ceropegia woodii* (rosary vine)

Photograph by Ken Kjoller

unsightly.

The rosary vine, or *Ceropegia woodii*, is a succulent pendulous hanging pot plant that will grow many fairly long tails that will fall in a curtain around its container. The fleshy leaves grow from the stem in opposing pairs with a marbling of dark green and white or ivory. Flowers that are somewhat insignificant will form from time to time. The rosary vine can be propagated by removing little tubers that develop along the stem and potting them



*Chlorophytum comosum*, spider plant

in their own container. Use average, well-draining soil, and be generous with water. They prefer filtered shade, but will do fine in sun along the coast.

The dead nettle, or *Lamium maculatum*, will grow long, trailing tails in profusion from a hanging container. The dangling tails could grow up to five feet in length. The stems have heart-shaped leaves, with toothed indentations, which alternate along the stem. These leaves are green with silver or white mottlings. The nettle produces pinkish flowers. Plant it in rich, well-draining soil, watering often. Fertilize periodically to encourage new growth. □ [Ed. note: This doesn't seem to be a well-known plant here. I hope to run a photo in the future.]



*Sedum morganianum*, donkey tail,  
hanging among star jasmine vines

Robert Horwitz is a retired aerospace engineer who gardens in Point Loma.

## KATE SESSIONS STATUE PROPOSED

THE KATE SESSIONS SCULPTURE COMMITTEE advocates the sculpting and placement of a 6½-foot statue of Kate Sessions in an appropriately landscaped and lighted setting at the Laurel Street entrance to Balboa Park, near the southwest corner of Sefton Plaza. [Location is not yet city approved.] Katherine Olivia Sessions (1857-1940) left a legacy to the San Diego community that continues to enrich the lives of all its citizens.

Beginning in 1892, under contract with the city, she planted more than one hundred trees a year in the park and donated over three hundred trees a year to city beautification. Some of these trees still exist today.

The committee has chosen native San Diegan Ruth Hayward to create the bronze statue. Ruth specializes in the art of sculpting human figures.

All funds for the statue are being raised privately. The budget for the project is \$63,700, including an endowment for maintenance of both the statue and landscaping. Those wishing to contribute should make checks payable to City Beautiful of San Diego, Inc. Send with a memo, "For Kate Sessions Sculpture Fund" to: P.O. Box 80878, San Diego CA 92138. If you would like further information about this project, please call Ruth Ann Hageman at 270-8530.





# SORRY, WON'T GROW HERE!

by BETTY NEWTON

IT'S 1996 AND THE western world is the middle of a flower garden craze. From Paris to San Diego, from Vancouver to Tampa, gardeners want crowded, enrapturing flower gardens.

It's fun to watch. It can be a pleasure to see the beautiful areas that people create. At the same time you may furrow your brow and cross your fingers as neighbors start ambitious new gardens.

Can they succeed in turning a place that has been covered with Algerian ivy into a hollyhock, foxglove, roses, and daisies garden? Can they learn quickly enough, crawling successfully over mistakes? Or, will they give up the first time the garden looks trashy? Gardeners know plants die; dead plants look like trash, and they whisk them to the compost pile. Beginners may give up.

How about the problem of choosing plants? I have four new gorgeous magazines: *Better Homes and Gardens Flower Gardening*, *Southern Living's Garden Guide*, *Woman's Day Garden Planner and Product Guide*, and *Country Homes Country Garden*. Each cost four dollars and was designed to inspire and give a warm cozy feeling as you read it sitting on the couch of an evening.

Notice their effect. My wonderful son-in-law with the new home says, "What's with our nurseries? They seem to carry only the most common plants. Why can't I find hostas?"

I look up, shocked, "Grant, hostas don't grow here!"

He looks deeply surprised, "Boy, the magazines are sure full of them!"

Now, where does one go to learn? Go to *Sunset Western Garden Book*. We're flying blind without it! Then look alphabetically under the plant name, after you've studied the map pages and zone system and determined your zone. After a plant name the book states the zones where the plant grows. It is a simple, effective and almost always right system. But you have to open the book. You

have to know about it.

A group of us just came back from a joyful nine days visiting gardens in Vancouver and Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. It was my job to identify certain of the plants. At the end of June we reveled in candelabra primulas, spring astilbe, clematis, goat's beard aruncus, big fat peonies, blue Himalayan poppies, and blue, gold and green hostas, not to mention hemlock and red cedars. Only the clematis is at all successful here. I will be happy to hear to the contrary.

See the problem. Lacking enough hours of cold (below 45°F), plants from temperate climates moved here lack vigor. They are wimps. I've seen hostas at Sea World and in Crest. They failed to grow well and multiply.

Now to nitpick. *Sunset's* fine book states that hostas grow from Lakeside through Ramona. Please write me, care of this magazine, if you live in that zone and have

had good hostas. We know you can get weak-growing peonies in low spots in Escondido and respectable peonies in Julian. The crux of success is in the total hours of chill.

We don't despair; we pick up our skirts, study a little more and learn we can grow all kinds of roses; many poppies (but not the oriental), great zinnias and sunflowers, and most, but not all, the herbs.

We are NOT shortchanged in our

flower gardens; we just have to take advantage of plants that thrive in our mild climate — plants like ivy geraniums and freesias. Your colorful garden can go on and on if you learn what grows here throughout the year.

Carry a piece of a plant you admire to the nursery (pressed in a notebook) and record the names. Your garden can be dynamic! □

Betty Newton teaches gardening classes at Grossmont Adult Schools and writes for the *Sunday San Diego Union-Tribune*. Photograph by the author.



Hosta in Vancouver, B.C. in June  
San Diego's weed, plantain, is a Hosta



## Now is the Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR  
AFFILIATES, UC COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
AND CALIFORNIA GARDEN STAFF

### AFRICAN VIOLETS by Helen LaGamma

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO KEEP** violets well groomed.

**TO KEEP** the area clean. Continue to wipe down the growing area with mild solution of Lysol and water.

**TO SPRAY** the leaves with warm water; cool water will chill the plants.

**TO LEAVE** air space between the plants.

**TO KEEP** pans of wet pebbles among the plants for added humidity; very important during hot weather.

**TO USE** cool light tubes — keep plants out of direct sunlight.

### BEGONIAS by Margaret Lee

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FEED** tuberous begonias in September as long as the leaves remain green.

**TO START** withholding water from the tuberous variety in October and do not feed them again.

**TO GIVE** a final feeding of the year to your regular begonias in October, unless you have fed all year with a balanced fertilizer.

**TO TAKE** cuttings and plant them, to increase your collection and share.

### BONSAI by San Diego Bonsai Club

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO ADJUST** watering schedule to the variable weather. Shallow pots may require two or three

daily waterings on hot, dry, windy days.

**TO TRANSPLANT** wisteria if you want blossoms next spring.

**TO REPO**t quince, olives, and podocarpus.

**TO MOVE** deciduous trees to cool, shaded areas if you live in Southern California, so they will not sprout any new growth.

**TO FERTILIZE** only lightly or not at all in October if you fertilized in September.

**TO WAIT** until spring for any major transplanting.

### BROMELIADS by Mary Siemers

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATER** plants according to the weather (temperature), but do not allow the soil to become soggy.

**TO CUT** new offshoots (pups) and pot them while weather is still warm. Offshoots must be  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of the mother plant.

**TO KEEP** plants clean by cutting spent blooms and dead leaves.

**TO REPO**t plants that need larger pots (use next size larger).

**TO ALWAYS USE** new potting mix, making sure it is one that allows fast drainage.

### CACTI & SUCCULENTS by Joseph A. Betzler

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO WATCH** plants and fertilize less as they go dormant. The winter growers need more fertilizer and water as they start to grow.

**TO MAINTAIN** the growth pattern of the plant. Look for signs of growth as the season changes.

**TO WATCH** weather situations as changes can occur very fast in our area. Be sure to protect from the hot days that still may occur.

**TO TRANSPLANT** actively growing seedlings and rooted cuttings now so they can get established before winter.

**TO CLEAN** the area where plants are grown.

**TO PREVENT** insect pests from building into major problems. Look at your plants carefully and check for mealybugs, mites, aphids, and snails; treat appropriately.

### CAMELLIAS by E. C. (Gene) Snooks

#### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering program during

bud development.

**TO SPRAY** for bud mites or spider mites with kelthane (available again in a new formula) or similar miticide.

**TO START** or continue to disbud for better blooms, leaving one bud per cluster or one bud per branch for show quality blooms.

**TO FERTILIZE** with 0-10-10, 2-10-10, or similar low nitrogen fertilizer for best bloom development.

**TO APPLY** iron and zinc supplement, if indicated by pale foliage with darker green veins.

**TO APPLY** gibberellic acid for earlier blooms.

Buds should open in about two months.

### **DAHLIAS**

by Abe Janzen

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CLEAN** up old leaves and stalks, preparing for fall and winter.

**TO SPRAY** to prevent mildew and spider mites.

**TO MAINTAIN** a regular watering program until the first of October, then cut down watering gradually.

**TO FEED** with potash to promote good root growth. It also helps to keep plants healthier during the winter.

### **EPIPHYLLUMS**

Epiphyllum Society

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PROTECT** plants from exposure to direct sunlight.

**TO SPRAY**-Mist to provide moisture during warm spells and keep stems clean and free of dust.

Spraying of foliage occasionally can be beneficial.

**TO PREVENT** soil from completely drying out.

**TO PROTECT** new growth from wind damage; stake plants and carefully tie to a trellis.

**TO CHECK** for snails and slugs; a few granules of Sluggeta at the base of the plant are often effective and leave little to no residue.

**TO GIVE** plants a final feeding for fall — use a balanced fertilizer before they become semi-dormant.

### **FERNS**

by San Diego Fern Society

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO REMOVE** dead fronds.

**TO PLANT** spores of all varieties.

**TO PROTECT** from hot sun, but give maximum

light.

**TO WATER** and maintain humidity by keeping surrounding areas damp.

**TO FERTILIZE** once with high nitrogen fertilizer.

**TO CHECK** for aphids, mealy bugs and scale; if present use Malathion-50.

**TO KEEP** snails, pill bugs and slugs under control use metaldehyde granules.

### **FRUIT TREES AND VINES**

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO CONTINUE** periodic, thorough irrigation to maintain adequate soil moisture until winter rains begin.

**TO OPERATE** drip irrigation systems until we receive at least two inches of rain to prevent salt injury.

**TO PRUNE** out dead and severely damaged shoots of deciduous trees before foliage drops.

**TO COVER** maturing grape clusters with paper bags (poke small holes in the bags for ventilation) to protect maturing fruit from yellow jackets and birds.

**TO CHECK** on maturity of kiwi fruit. Maturity is measured by a change in seed color from white to brown or black. Pick large fruit first, but harvest before fruit softens.

### **FUCHSIAS**

by William Selby

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO PICK** off spent blooms and seed pods.

**TO MAINTAIN** humidity by keeping areas sprayed. Be careful not to overwater, but mist during hot, dry, windy days. It is best to water in the early morning, or in the cool of evening.

**TO CONTINUE** fertilizing for fall and winter blooms.

**TO SPRAY** as required for insect control. Be sure to wet the underside of leaves, the hiding place for egg laying.

**TO MAKE** cuttings while removing leggy growth — use the tender tips. October is a better month to propagate new plants.

**TO KEEP** cuttings in a cool place for four to six days; keep moist but not wet or soggy.

### **GERANIUMS (Pelargoniums)**

by Carol Roller

#### **NOW IS THE TIME**

**TO WATER** thoroughly when plants become



somewhat dry. Allow the excess water to drain away. Water in advance of a Santa Ana. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

**TO CONTINUE** feeding a soluble, balanced fertilizer with micronutrients. Use less than the recommended amount, but apply as often as necessary to avoid nutritional deficiencies.

**TO CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program using all products according to the manufacturers' instructions.

**TO BEGIN** pruning, even if plants are still blooming. On regals, scented and similar types, at least one green leaf should be left on each stem being cut back.

**TO MAKE** cuttings from prunings. Trim and insert into a moistened, sterile medium. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

**TO KEEP** all the plants tidy by removing faded flowers and discolored leaves.

**TO CONTINUE** to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.

### GREEN THUMB

by Editorial Staff

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO FEED** well established shrubs with a balanced fertilizer; water thoroughly.

**TO PREPARE** bulb beds; add humus. Buy early bulbs and place in refrigerator for a few weeks before planting.

**TO PLANT** bulbs of calla, freesia, scilla, and watsonia in Sept. Other bulbs, such as anemone, daffodil, ixia, and ranunculus can be planted in Oct.

**TO MULCH** acid-loving plants.

**TO DUST** and stake chrysanthemums; do not continue pinching tips, disbud for larger blooms.

**TO DIVIDE** the daylilies, agapanthus, Shasta daisies and belladonna lilies after blooming.

### IRIS

by Iris Society

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO CLEAN** beds and discard old fans and debris.

**TO DIVIDE** and plant clumps of bearded iris.

**TO FEED** established tall bearded that are not being divided.

**TO PLANT** beardless iris: spuria, Siberian, Louisiana, and Japanese varieties. Louisiana and Japanese are grown in pots, pools or in swampy conditions.

**TO PLANT** Dutch irises in October for spring bloom.

### NATIVES

by Jeanine De Hart

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO INCREASE** watering as days get shorter, the weather gets cooler, and natives come out of their summer dormancy.

**TO ALWAYS** water deeply as in the wintertime plants will be extending their root systems. Drought tolerance is dependent on deep rooting.

**TO BE SURE** the ground is well prepared and loose for fall planting. If necessary, dig deep and add decomposed granite, nitrohumus, and agricultural gypsum to loosen clay soil.

**TO FERTILIZE** with a weak fertilizer solution. Fertilizing with a solution about one-half strength is plenty for natives.

### ORCHIDS

by Charles Fouquette

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO STAY** alert for Santa Ana winds with their high heat and low humidity. Frequent misting during this debilitating period will help plants, including orchids.

**TO START** Nobile *Dendrobium* on a 0-10-10 diluted fertilizer program. Be sure to leach the traces of other fertilizers from the pot. When the leaves drop from your Nobile *Dendrobium*, stop fertilizing and watering — just keep the pot damp over winter and protect from total freeze. When the new leaves start in spring, after plants flower, resume watering.

**TO WATCH** *Paphiopedilum* during hot dry days. Remember this is a transition period (we may see a rapid decline in warm weather in October).

*Paphiopedilum* and other non-bulbous orchids have no water storage capacities and must be misted more at this time than at any other.

**TO WATCH** for snails and slugs — see your local nursery person for the latest in pest control. Keep a sharp watch for red spider — they grow and multiply during this time of year. When spraying, get under the leaves — that's where they congregate. Use insecticides that are non-petroleum based. Again, see your nursery person for proper application.

**TO MIST** seedlings and other plants early in the morning to prevent shock of cold water on warm leaves. Also, when watering your *Phalaenopsis*, try to water in the early part of the day. *Phalaenopsis* and other Vandaceous orchids can take a great amount of light if the leaves are cooled by generous



air movement to take the heat away from the hot leaves. Cold water on warm leaves will cause tissue to break down and die back.

**TO SHUT** down the swamp cooler when the weather cools at the end of October. Drain the bottom and unplug the unit. Oil the motor and the oil cups on the fan. Patch any holes in the bottom with a patching compound. Check the water pump and cover for the winter.

## ROSES

by Marianne Truby

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO ENCOURAGE** your rose bushes to produce the glorious blooms they are capable of during the fall months and on into the holiday season. Given consistent loving care your fall roses can be the most beautiful of the growing season.

**TO CONTINUE** clean-up started in late August into the first week of September. Your bushes are frequently leggy and/or have produced rose hips during the summer. Remove about a third of the canes, eliminate twiggy growth but leave on foliage. (Do not strip leaves as we do in January). The lower you cut, the longer the time to produce new blooms. Paint cuts the size of pencil or larger with white glue to deter borers that are active at this time of the year.

**TO SELECT** an area of your garden and try using a pre-emergent weed preventer if you have not done so before. I have been very happy with this product and believe it has helped me keep rust problems at a minimum.

**TO MULCH** clean beds to keep weeds under control and to feed on alternate weeks with organics such as blood meal, cottonseed, fish and/or kelp meal. The warm soil and the organics will work wonders for your bushes.

**TO APPLY** iron chelate, zinc, and epsom salts each month and to disbud daily to produce large blooms and deep green foliage.

**TO CONTROL** mildew by spraying weekly for mildew control following manufacturer's directions.

**TO BE ALERT** for unusual weather conditions. When Santa Ana winds occur, maintain moisture level, keep plant foliage clean by washing off bushes in early morning. Until fall rains come water, water, water!

**TO TRY** propagating with cuttings!

**TO REPOT** rootbound potted roses in late October.

**TO VISIT** fall flower shows, assess your existing roses for possible replacement.

## VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Hort. Advisor, UC Coop Extension

### NOW IS THE TIME

**TO REMOVE** warm-season vegetables badly damaged by pests or diseases and those that are past their prime production period.

**TO PREPARE** soil for planting cool-season vegetables by incorporating composted organic matter and a pre-plant fertilizer high in phosphorus. Begin planting cool-season vegetables: broccoli, Brussels sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, fava beans, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, parsley, peas, potatoes (white), spinach, and turnips.

**TO BUY** seed of short-day onions like 'Grano', 'Granex', and 'Crystal Wax', as well as garlic cloves to plant in November for bulb production next summer. Onion sets can be planted for a quick crop of green onions but not for bulbs.

**TO DIG** sweet potatoes before any danger of frost. Be careful not to bruise roots. Dry thoroughly (one to two weeks), wrap in newspaper and store close to 60°F.

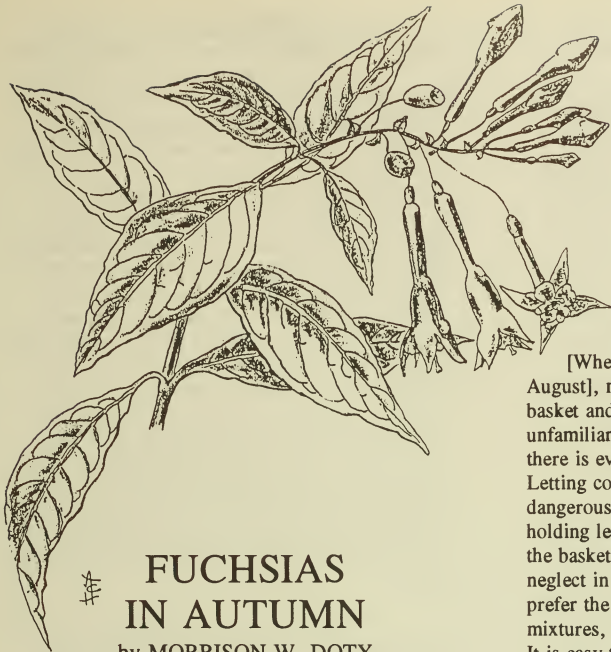
## VEGETABLES, ANNUALS

from UC Cooperative Extension Publications

### NOW IS ONE OF THE BETTER TIMES IN FROST-FREE AREAS

**TO PUT IN TRANSPLANTS OF:** broccoli, cabbage, and cauliflower — aster, baby's breath, canterbury bell, carnation, cineraria, daisy (African, Shasta, English), delphinium, Chinese forget-me-not, foxglove, hollyhock, lobelia (in Sept.), pot marigold (*Calendula officinalis*), fairy primrose (*Primula malacoides*), snapdragon, stock (*Matthiola incana*), sand verbena (*Abronia umbellata*), ranunculus, sweet william, pansy and viola.

**TO PUT IN SEEDS OF:** beets, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, chard, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, onions (dry, in Oct.), parsley, parsnips, peas, potatoes (Sept.), radishes, spinach, and turnips — alyssum, baby blue eyes, baby's breath, bachelor's button, African daisy, candytuft, columbine, gloriosa daisy (in Oct.) delphinium, forget-me-not, Chinese forget-me-not, gazania, hollyhock, honesty, kale (ornamental), larkspur, lavender, lupine (in Oct.), pansy, poppy (California, Iceland, and Shirley), Virginia stock (*Malcolmia maritima*), sweet peas, and wildflowers.



## FUCHSIAS IN AUTUMN

by MORRISON W. DOTY

AUTUMN, WITH ITS VARIATIONS from dreamy Indian Summer days to cold foggy nights, can be a delightful distillation of all the other seasons of the year. In Southern California those elements of climate extending far into the winter, enable us to enjoy our fuchsias long after growers in the colder climates have "put their gardens to bed." Since fuchsias (properly fed and cared for) normally bloom, rest, and bloom again several times, sometimes almost to exhaustion, we must use good judgment at this time of year to ensure good plants for next spring. Older, tired, bloomed-out plants should have their food and water reduced to a safe minimum to induce dormancy that they need to survive. This is especially true of container plants. They should have any drastic pruning they need postponed until spring unless you are following the current trend toward fall pruning. Cutting back of long straggly branches, as well as some discreet pruning and shaping of all plants from August into October, has proved a good practice in this area. Some growers and even nurserymen we know prefer fall pruning while the sap is down, as safer from frost and dieback. In the milder areas here it is a real pleasure to have favorite varieties blooming beautifully up to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Selected young vigorous plants, after being fed for bloom on a hi-phosphorous

formula, may easily be led to late blooming. Such old hardies as 'Rose of Castille' and 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt', and some new varieties as ['Bicentennial', 'Pink Marshmallow', 'Hula Girl', 'Golden Anniversary', or 'Angel's Flight'] are suggested for late bloom. Baskets or container plants that may be moved about to the warmer protected winter nooks are best for this experiment. Baskets at eye-level height are more easily fed, watered, and it is easier to replenish the soil washed away by deep watering.

[When we have hot weather during July and August], many fuchsia fans complain about losing basket and container plants. Some try out strange or unfamiliar plant mixes or fertilizers, but more often there is evidence of irregular or insufficient watering. Letting container fuchsias get too dry can be as dangerous as for ferns, and enough good soil, moisture-holding leaf mold, and other nutrients must be kept in the basket to protect the plants against occasional neglect in watering. Many successful gardeners still prefer the basic simple soil, manure, and good leaf mold mixtures, rather than expensive specials for each flower. It is easy to add a little blood meal and hi-nitrogen fertilizer such as fish-base 10-5-5 at growing time, and change to a low nitrogen, hi-phosphate feeding formula like 4-10-8 three or four weeks before blooming, when the plants are well grown. Good rich natural leaf mold is preferred to peat or other commercial moisture-holders that may be ruined by one drying out. Normally a very adaptable hearty feeder in most slightly acid soils, the fuchsia can be a delight to the amateur or casual gardener. When doing fall pruning, save 3-inch tip cuttings from your favorite varieties of this easiest of all plants to propagate. Press them down firmly in a flat of moist sand with a bit of fine leaf mold added, and place in a filtered, sunlit protected nook. They should be ready for 2-inch pots in three weeks or so, for they can be rooted even in plain water. Use no fertilizer at first.

Exchanging cuttings with garden friends, shopping for some of the striking new varieties, and joining a Fuchsia Society will add zest to your enjoyment of this most worthwhile hobby. □

*Morrison Doty was a well-known local grower of fuchsias and a contributor to California Garden.*

*Drawing of 'Gartenmeister Bonstedt' fuchsia by Alfred D. Hottes.*

*(Reprinted from the OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1966 issue of California Garden)*

# OREGANO: THE PIZZA HERB

by MELBA DAVIS



*Origanum vulgare*

JUST MENTIONING PIZZA has a tendency to set a lot of mouths watering, certainly mine. And what is the pizza herb? It's oregano, also called wild marjoram, and it surely comes with a history of its own. There is a great deal of argument about this plant because WILD marjoram is not SWEET marjoram. Neither is this oregano the Greek oregano that is more pungent.

However, back to this plant! The Spanish used to call it the "joy of the mountain" because its vivid purple flowers looked almost like a carpet on the hilly Mediterranean countryside. The Italians, however, thought of it as the perfect complement to mushrooms. Since it grew wildly about the area, it would crop up on family grave plots, and everyone decided it meant that the departed were happy in their afterlife.

In medieval times, the oil from oregano was used to stem a toothache, and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, it was considered to be terrific for helping one to digest food or take care of bites from venomous pests. It was even used as we use aloe today to help control itching.

Like many other herbs, it was made into liniments that helped the aching joints of the human body. Some even smoked the dry leaves, and the Russians were noted for using it as a dye for the wood of their lances.

In the late thirties, we here in the United States were informed that THE herb to use for Spanish or Mexican food was oregano. The real craze hit right after World War II when pizza began its rise to fame. Within a decade or two, its use had mushroomed by at least 2000 percent.

Oregano is a perennial and grows one to three feet tall, produces flowers from June to October, and, in general, can provide lots of enjoyment. You can find this plant at your local nursery.

Reprint courtesy of California Association of Nurserymen, Suite 155,  
4620 Northgate Blvd. Sacramento, Calif. 95834

## From "Today's Garden," comes this information on GROWING AND DRYING OREGANO

*Origanum vulgare* and its cultivars are the familiar forms of oregano. This is a perennial hardy to zone 5 [all Sunset zones].

To start from seed, sow on a bed of well-soaked sphagnum moss. Cover with a sheet of glass, and place in the dark at 60 to 65 degrees F. Germination will occur after about five days. After germination, water with a weak fertilizer to spur growth. After a month, transplant to pots, growing cells, or seedling flats of potting soil. After all danger of frost is over, harden the seedlings for a week by putting them in full sun for several hours each day, and then returning them to the shade before night. Transplant to the garden in full sun.

Oregano can be used fresh, but is most often dried. To dry, cut the stems to the base just as the plants come into flower. Place tips down in a paper bag. Tie the bag around the stems and hang in a warm place. Check for drying after two or three weeks by rubbing the bag between your hands. If you hear leaves falling to the bottom of the bag, it is ready to be opened. Strip the leaves off the stems and finish drying in a 100 degree oven, checking frequently. Let cool, and then run the leaves through a coarse screen before bottling. If saving whole leaves, be sure to remove any bits of stem.

Oregano is used in a wide variety of cooking, in addition to sprinkling it on salads and pizzas.

Reprint courtesy of the National Garden Bureau,  
Suite 310, 1311 Butterfield Road,  
Downers Grove, Illinois 60515.

## OREGANO CULTURE

by ROBERT HORWITZ

Buy reputable seeds and sow in flats or pony pack containers, using a good soil that is somewhat sandy with fine humus. Mix potting soil well, thoroughly wet it, and after it drains, sow seeds about an inch apart. Cover with no more than 1/16-inch of soil. Keep moist.

Germination, depending on temperature, is from five to ten days. After a few sets of real leaves appear, the seedlings can be transplanted into 8- to 10-inch pots or into the ground.

The soil should then be on the slightly alkaline side. Fertilize after the plants are established with 12-12-12 or other fertilizer that is pretty balanced.

The fresh leaves are somewhat sweeter than the dried



ones and are less pungent.

#### CALIFORNIA POLENTA

1 cup of cornmeal  
4 cups of water  
1 tbs salt  
1 tbs dried, finely crumbled oregano  
½ lb. chopped mushrooms  
5 chopped scallions  
1 garlic clove, mashed  
½ cup flour  
½ cup olive oil

Bring water to a boil. Add cornmeal and salt. Reduce heat to a simmer, stirring all the time. After a minute or two, add the remaining ingredients and stir until quite stiff — about 5-7 minutes.

Pour out into a pie plate and smooth out so that the polenta is about ¾ to an inch thick. Allow to cool. Refrigerate. To serve, cut into 2- to 3-inch squares, dust with flour and saute in hot oil until surface turns brown and crispy. Serve hot.

This is great for breakfast with Italian sausage. □

#### "Weeds—Invasive Plants and People,"

*continued from page 140*

*Pelargonium peltatum*, which is keenly resolved to scramble itself up and over a neighboring ice plant and make a beeline for the hedge.

I do love the informal appearance of a path invaded by spreading plant growth at its edges. I glory in the easygoing, unrestrained, congenial charm. I am pressured by my wife, who is most formal in her garden views, to clear the sidewalk edge and have nothing to mar the pathway line. I give in to her, but only when my plant expansion threatens to take over the whole sidewalk! □

*Ron Sissons is the author of the recently published book, Down to Earth. He received his horticultural training in England. (see page 153)*

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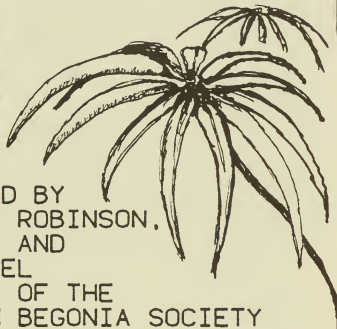
18-page Catalog \$1.00

"CAMELLIAS FOR POTS, PORCHES, AND PATIOS" continued from page 136. UPDATE: There will be no charge for the San Diego Camellia Society's 50th annual Show scheduled for Feb. 1 and 2, 1997, in Balboa Park. Entries will be accepted Saturday from 8-10AM in room 101, Casa del Prado. Classes include one restricted to San Diego gardeners and one for novices (those who have never won a ribbon). Bring your blooms; join the fun; make history of your own.

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## **SALAD GARDENS: Simple Secrets for Glorious Gardens, Indoors and Out**

**Mimi Luebberrmann**

San Francisco, Chronicle Books, 1996, 107 Pages, 79 color photos, 8" x 8 1/2", softcover, \$12.95

If you haven't been eating your "greens" as you should, this book should do the trick for you. The photos alone are motivation to take a jug of olive oil and a bottle of balsamic vinegar and head for the kitchen. The text should get you anxious to plant as well. There are windowsill gardens, cut and come again gardens, tiny parterres of herbs and salad makings, Asian greens and sprouts. Radicchio, mache, sorrel, mesclun and other unusual or overlooked greens are featured. The author explains how to grow and use all of them and provides some recipes that sound divinely inspired. One of the best ideas in the book is to plant your salad garden in an old wheelbarrow, making it easy to adjust for the sun, wind and cold just by moving the entire garden when necessary. Each of her garden suggestions includes growing conditions, hardiness, planting and harvesting instructions, and recommended varieties. This book would make a great wedding or housewarming gift.

*Reviewed by Connie Beck*

## **PICTURING PLANTS: An Analytical History of Botanical Illustration**

**Gill Saunders**

Berkeley, Univ. of California Press in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1995, 152 pages, 60 color and 42 b&w illustrations, 9" x 9", hardcover, \$29.95

Several recent titles on botanical illustration are currently available and this authoritative study is a significant addition to the genre. Gill Saunders is curator and art historian at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London and her book is solidly researched. It is both scholarly and entertaining, and it deserves a wide audience.

In clear and concise prose the preface and introduction form a not-to-be-skipped guide to the main text. This has chapters including ones called "Herbals," "Florilegia and

Pattern Books," "The Botanical Treatise," and "Floras and Field Guides." There is also an impressive bibliography.

From woodcuts to micrography to the effective display of specimens, the author presents a thorough analysis of botanical art. She also considers the purposes for which illustrations were and are produced, and she has some observations (Page 101) on the importance of color versus black and white. Readers of the all black and white *California Garden*, now publishing Volume 87, may want to challenge these remarks. The illustrations range from woodcuts, dated 1500, to twentieth century art work made for seed packets and nursery posters. Among many others the author quotes Pierre-Joseph Redoute and Benjamin Maund, both of whom are represented in the San Diego Floral Association Library.

The book is elegant in format and the color printing is of a high standard, an essential quality in a book of this kind. It is very readable and visually appealing. Public libraries, as well as special libraries, should consider this title for purchase.

*Reviewed by Elsie M. Topham*

## **SMALL GARDENS AND BACKYARDS**

**David Stevens**

North Pomfret, Vt., Distributed by Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1995, 80 pages, 123 color photos, 24 b&w illustrations, 8 1/4" x 9 1/4", softcover, \$8.95

Any small garden is really an extension of the house. The smaller the space the more important it is to organize it intelligently. If you are faced with an overgrown or unexploited outdoor area, where do you start to turn it into a special place for eating, entertaining or just relaxing?

David Stevens, author of *Small Gardens and Backyards*, one of Britain's best-known garden designers, a writer and a broadcaster, gives expert advice on the best use that can be made of every available space. His book begins with basics of planning and landscaping, followed by deciding on plantings and features, and then care and maintenance of the finished product. There is a temptation in studying garden books and magazines simply to copy an idea. However, Stevens writes this book in a manner with an emphasis on personality—your personality.

The inspiring photographs were collected from many photographers and organizations. This is a cheerful garden book to study or read for pleasure.

*Reviewed by John Rojas, Jr.*

## **CARNIVOROUS PLANTS: Care and Cultivation**

**Marcel Lecoufle**

New York, Distributed by Sterling Company, Inc., 1993, 144 pages, 151 color photos, 21 b&w illustrations, 8 1/4" x 10 3/4", softcover, \$17.95

Plants that need insects to survive is the subject of this beautifully written book that is illustrated by the author's

outstanding photographs. For more than thirty years the author, Marcel Lecouffe, has been a world authority on carnivorous plants, orchids and other exotic plants.

This book is well laid-out and each plant has an easy to read chart on care and the plant's prey. There are lists of hundreds of the principal species of carnivorous plants and their hybrids including the region of origin.

The book contains interesting mythology and history about the fascinating world of carnivorous plants. At the end of the nineteenth century, as terrifying as it was mythical, there was talk of the man-eating tree of Madagascar. Every plant lover will enjoy reading this book and perhaps will want to add it to their book collection.

*Reviewed by John Rojas, Jr.*

## ONE HUNDRED ENGLISH GARDENS

Patrick Taylor

New York, Rizzoli International Publications, Inc., 1996, 208 pages, 10" x 11", 200 color photos, hardcover, \$40

Many persons are familiar with Patrick Taylor's *The Gardener's Guide to Britain*, the 1996 edition was the fifth. Without precise checking it would seem that the one hundred gardens included in this lavishly illustrated book are among those listed in the guides. The guides are meant for traveling, while this volume with its full page illustrations will entice you to visit these gardens. The historic background on each garden, their owners, their choice of plantings and the current status of the property makes for interesting reading. Many of these properties are now managed by the National Trust. The photos are by the photographers of *English Heritage* and were especially commissioned for this book. It is the pictures that send you to the back of the book to check the map to see if you could possibly include this garden on your next trip, or they enable you to enjoy the gardens vicariously.

*Reviewed by R. Cox*

## THE DIVINE ORIGIN OF THE CRAFT OF THE HERBALIST

E.A. Wallis Budge

New York, Dover Publications, 1996, 112 pages, 13 illustrations, 5 1/2" x 8 1/2", softcover, \$4.95

This informative book is a reprint of the original 1928 book. The author was the Keeper of Egyptian and Assyrian Antiquities for the British Museum and a noted authority on ancient Egypt and Assyria. He states, "Magic has always appealed greatly to men of all nations, for by the use of it a man ceases to be a supplicant of the gods, and is able to command and to force supernatural beings and things to do his will." He begins from the earliest written documents and progresses through the various written works relating to the origins of the use of herbs from priests to herbalists and physicians. In about 2000 B.C., physicians were beginning to believe that sickness

and diseases were due to natural causes and were not the work of the gods. The development of the magic wand is interesting. The book has translations of herbs and their uses as well as incantations. Fascinating reading.

The modern science of herbalism developed from knowledge of plants acquired by the peoples of the ancient Near East. As one reads the book it will come as a surprise how many of the ancient beliefs are still practiced and even believed today by some people.

*Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones*

## NATURALLY HEALING HERBS

Carly Wells

New York, Sterling Publishing, 1996, 128 pages, 46 color & 54 B/W illustrations, 6" x 9", softcover, \$12.95

Carly Wells explains the use of "miracle drugs" that are made from safe and natural plant material that exists right under our noses. These are tonics or teas made from herbs and other plant materials. The history, explanations, uses, and how-to's for preparing tonics are included. For fifty-three individual plants there are scientific names, tips on identifying, growing, harvesting and storing them plus good drawings. The availability of each plant is included, too. "Virtually every culture from Africa to Europe, Asia, Australia, the Americas, and many islands in between has used some form of herbal healing." Carly Wells tells about many of them in this easy-to-read book.

*Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones*

## WATER FEATURES FOR SMALL GARDENS

Francesca Greenoak

North Pomfret, Vermont, Trafalgar Square Publishing, 1996, 108 color pictures, 35 colored sketches, 9 1/4" x 9 3/4", hardcover, \$22.95

Francesca Greenoak is the gardening editor for *Good Housekeeping* and the former gardening correspondent for *The Times*. This beautiful book has ideas for water use from simple pots to elaborate schemes for pools and streams. The pictures are good and there are how-to instructions on constructing the water feature. The plants used in and around the features are identified. There are pictures and descriptions of pool plants, too, plus instructions on how to care for the pool.

I found the descriptions for long narrow pools she calls canals, and for rills and steps particularly interesting. San Diegans looking for ideas for Spanish/Mediterranean influenced gardens will appreciate the chapters on wall-mounted fountains and mosaic fountains.

If you are thinking of adding a water feature to your garden or patio, this book should give you some great ideas. Just remember, the pictures were taken where the winters are cold and the climate is different, so you will find that you must substitute different plant material for some listed. That should be easy, just get something that looks similar that grows here.

*Reviewed by Barbara S. Jones*



# COMMUNICATIONS . . .

## WE WELCOME LETTERS PERTAINING TO GARDENS!

As some of you know, we have been sending out surveys with our renewal notices. We have received many replies, and it has been decided by committee members to end the survey. Thanks to all who participated.

### SOME RESPONSES RECEIVED:

Never can find an article on how to Bonsai pine trees in the garden! Not how to in containers! Lots of those articles. Would be so helpful for training trees in the garden.  
MBA

La Jolla

Please!

No more book reviews! No more recipes!

Mr. and Mrs. FJF

San Diego

Your magazine is great as is. I look forward to each additional magazine; many of which I share, but most I keep to refer to.

My husband and I are not the best gardeners, but we like a green, clean yard, some trees, shrubs and flowers, so *California Garden* has helped us a lot.

I was delighted, many years ago, to discover the magazine, for its many articles pertaining to our little corner of the world — San Diego County!

Thank you for all the hours of good reading. Continue the good work.

YH

Chula Vista

We love it — can think of little improvement! A real bargain.

J&LJ

Lemon Grove

Your "Now Is the Time" and "Horticultural Calendar" are the most help in your magazine. Please by all means, keep including these helpful articles. Thanks.

JBB

La Jolla

Moving from CT to CA, I was uncertain how and what to grow. Then I "found" your publication. What a

lifesaver! For the first year or two, I totally relied on "Now Is the Time." Now I'm even growing orchids — something I could only dream about in CT!

I usually read each issue cover to cover. No other publication is so specific to our unique growing conditions. I use 3 resources exclusively: *Sunset Western Garden Book*, *Pat Welsh's Southern California Gardening* and *California Garden*. Thanks!

DM

Carlsbad

*California Garden* is doing a grand job of providing information on all the topics that have to do with gardening. Thank you.

CQ

Del Mar

I thoroughly enjoy your magazine and use it constantly. I am Horticulture Chairman in our Laguna Beach Garden Club and use it in my programs and demonstrations. Our climate & growing conditions are compatible with yours in San Diego.

Keep up the good work — Sincerely

HS

Laguna Beach

I have been a contributing member for several years and have in the past sent subscriptions to several people in the desert.

Unfortunately due to the distance, I do not come to the meetings but do enjoy the magazine. . . . Thank you.

"A weed is a plant whose virtues have not been discovered." Ralph Waldo Emerson

BGS

La Quinta

Glad you print the San Diego Floral Association list. I want "more" because I read *California Garden* cover to cover as soon as it arrives!

WW

Lakeside

A respondent to our survey seemingly took our reference to "Now Is the Time" and "Horticultural Calendar" to mean that these are separate publications. These are sections in the magazine.

In response to a note in the May-June issue saying that bamboo is neglected, Betty Shor writes that anyone interested in bamboo can write to the chapter's secretary and newsletter editor: George G. Shor, 2655 Ellentown Road, La Jolla, CA 92037-1147 (phone 619-453-0334).

Dear *California Garden* Editor,

That was a superb, useful article on controlling weeds by pest control advisor, Cynthia Drake, in your July-August issue.

The magazine, with just such articles, spreads reliable, useful information. And you had sketches of most of the weeds.

What, please, is an "MSDS" sheet? [The material safety data sheet is information required by pesticide regulations to be put out by a manufacturer of each pesticide. On these sheets, some of the information given describes the chemical characteristics of the ingredients, lists hazards and other pertinent topics.]

To put the brand name data to work, we obviously need to copy the pages and put them with our herbicides. You can't learn so much instantly. But thanks to Cynthia and you, we now have it.

Sincerely,

Betty Newton

*California Garden's* staff uses *Hortus Third* as its authority for botanical names. Tumbleweed is known to the writers of *Hortus Third* as *Amaranthus albus*.

We request comments from readers who feel that we have provided incorrect information. The goal is to give readers the best gardening knowledge available.

## ADDRESSES

(page 140) *Down to Earth* by Ron Sissons can be obtained for \$25 + tax from Arboretum Press, 813 Creekwood Way, Chula Vista CA 91913

(page 134) Pat Pawlowski  
ANIMATED GARDENS  
619/727-7789 — Wildlife Garden Design



# CHILDREN IN THE GARDEN

Part 2 of 3 by FRANCES KENNEL

MAYBE WE ARE LEAVING out the "good stuff" when we teach our children about *Life*. We stress all sorts of negative concerns when we teach our children, "Don't talk to strangers." "Look both ways.", etc. Do we take time to introduce them to the amazing and beautiful gifts of nature? Do we let them know they can enjoy the best shows on Earth anytime? When was the last time, if ever, they saw a sunrise, sunset, clouds scudding across a gorgeous blue sky, storm clouds building up like a huge pile of mashed potatoes before a lightning storm or even sat quietly and watched for the first star of night?

Last year I suddenly realized it was time for the Harvest Moon. I got in my car, headed for Lakeside, quickly picked up granddaughter Kristina and yelled to my daughter to telephone my grandson about the coming event. Kristina was wide-eyed and breathless as we headed down to a better location. We were off to watch the awesome sight—the flamboyant, oversized moon rising and showing itself to anyone who wanted to watch.

The moon preened, strutted, smiled, and beamed. We wondered how many other people were aware such a show was appearing in our local sky! Because she spotted the first piece of moon coming up over the hill, we declared this moon was hers.

Here are some thoughts about introducing kids to your garden and keeping them interested until they take time to see.

## FUN THINGS TO DO IN THE GARDEN

(Kennell addresses the adult and the child alternately.)

### MAKE A SUNDIAL

Use an empty can with a piece of dowel stuck in the top. Fill the can with sand or rocks to keep the dowel upright. Place the can in a sunny location. On concrete is fine if you have chalk or small objects to mark where the dowel throws its shadow every half hour. On dirt just mark one-half hour lines with a stick or finger.

### WATCH SHADOWS MOVE

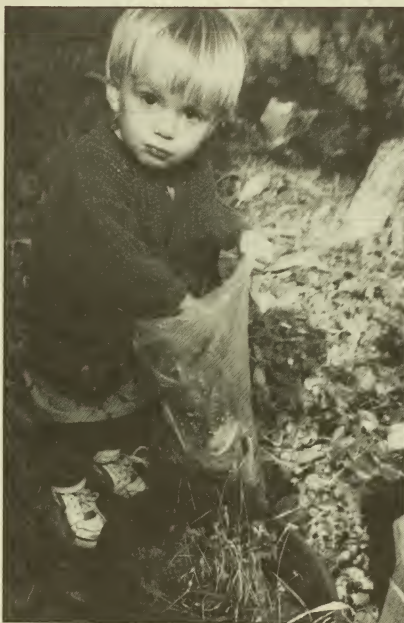
Trace the edge of a large shadow with something handy and then check frequently to see how it sneaks across the yard and later hides underneath its source at noon just like the sundial. Note that shadows fall in different direction as the seasons change, but do not get too technical.

### SET UP A "SPY STATION"

Spread out a blanket, sheet or something washable on the lawn, in weeds, or on the dirt. (Check first for ants.) Have one big pillow to share. (Wrap it in something washable.)

Lay on your backs and share binoculars—old kaleidoscope, paper towel tubes, Pringle can with holes punched in metal bottom, or juice can with a triangular hole. "Spy" on birds, butterflies, bugs, under sides of leaves, flowers, clouds, trees, bushes, plants, etc.

After Grandma gets up to continue her nearby gardening chores, the child can continue to update her. (All "spy" equipment must stay on the blanket for safety and security.) □



TWO-YEAR-OLD SAGE BRITAIN  
PICKING UP LEAVES

*Frances Kennell is a free-lance author specializing in public relations. Photo by Betty Newton.*

## BOOKS FOR SMALL CHILDREN

by BARBARA S. JONES

Two charming reading books have recently been released by Harcourt Brace & Company of San Diego. Both have gorgeous illustrations and are stories about plants and gardens not how-to

books. *Sunflower House* by Eve Bunting, illustrated by Kathryn Hewitt, is a beginner book. It is written as poetry that has meter and rhyme so it would be a great read-aloud book. The story is about a child in a house made of sunflowers. *The Garden of Happiness* by Erika Tamar, illustrated by Barbara Lambase, is a story about growing a community garden in a multi-cultural neighborhood in a large city. The read-alone level is for a more experienced reader, but would make a read-aloud for a younger child. Each book is \$15.00 plus tax. □



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*Garden Center and Library - Founded in 1907*

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619/232-5762, located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park

*Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California*

## GENERAL MEETINGS 1996

October 15  
5:45 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

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445-4569

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12606 Calle Tamega #91

San Diego CA 92128-1580

451-3923

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Rancho Bernardo

### BONITA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Norma Illingworth

4822 Whippoorwill Lane

Bonita CA 91902-1724

479-3478

2nd Wed - 9:30 am, Rohr Park Manor,

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### BRIDGE AND BAY GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Than Craddock

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Coronado CA 92118-1623

435-4236

4th Mon - 9:30 am, Winn Room,

Coronado Public Library

### CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Alice Miller

2650 Garfield Street

Carlsbad CA 92008-2216

721-6884

1st Fri - 1:00 pm, Sep thru Jun,

Heritage Hall, Magee Park

### CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Theodore Felber

1272 Pecan Place

Chula Vista CA 91911-3731

427-3184

3rd Thu - 1:00 pm, Norman Park Senior Center

### CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB

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6197 Arno Drive

San Diego CA 92120-4628

582-7098

1st Wed - 7:00 pm, Home of Members

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P. O. Box 180188

Coronado CA 92118-0188

435-5028

### CROWN GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Robert Sheridan

111 Alder Street

Coronado CA 92118-2422

435-1938

4th Thu - 9:30 am, Coronado Library

### DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Sarah Beers

P. O. Box 123

Valley Center CA 92082-0123

749-2140

2nd Tue - 12:30 pm, Valley Center Com. Hall

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Escondido CA 92025-6304

743-1879

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Fallbrook CA 92028-0926

731-0706

### FLEURS DE LEAGUE GARDEN CLUB

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1300 W. Walnut Avenue

San Diego CA 92103-4722

299-6742

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### GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB

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6360 Lake Kathleen Avenue

San Diego CA 92119-3131

2nd Mon - 9:30 am, 4975 Memorial Drive,

La Mesa

### LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mrs. Francis S. Blankenship

5427 Taft Avenue

La Jolla CA 92037-7641

454-4109

3rd Tue - 1:30 pm, L.J. Lutheran Church

### LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Mildred Digenan

P. O. Box 122

Lakeside CA 92040-0122

443-1529

All area codes are 619 unless otherwise noted.



# CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Lakeside Historical Church, 9906 Maine Avenue					
<b>LAS JARDINERAS</b>					
Pres: Alicia Elliott					
2018 Pheasant Run					
Fallbrook CA 92028-4345					
3rd Mon - 10:30 am, Home of Members					
<b>MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY</b>					
Pres: Mr. Patrick Shields	724-3749				
1215 Amador Avenue					
Vista CA 92083-5621					
4th Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Horticulture Building #T-700					
<b>MIRACOSTA HORTICULTURE CLUB</b>					
Pres: Helen Odom	743-1921				
1253 Nordahl Road					
Escondido CA 92026-2108					
3rd Sat - 1:00 pm, MiraCosta Community College, Student Center Bldg (upstairs)					
<b>PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB</b>					
Pres: Mrs. Dale S. Munda	272-9727				
1544 Oliver Avenue					
San Diego CA 92109-5321					
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<b>POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB</b>					
Pres: Elaine Marshall	223-8708				
1407 Santa Barbara Street					
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2nd Wed - 10:00 am, Westminster Presby Church					
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Pres: D. A. DeGomes	672-0158				
P. O. Box 27					
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2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Garden Club					
<b>SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB</b>					
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San Diego CA 92119-3527					
4th Tue - 9:30 am, Home of Members					
<b>SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB</b>					
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3482 Sitio Borde					
Carlsbad CA 92009-8925					
4th Wed - 9:30 am, Quail Bot. Gardens					
<b>SCRIPPS MESA GARDEN CLUB</b>					
Pres: Cindy Drake	271-8933				
9842 Hibert Street #276					
San Diego CA 92131-1096					
4th Mon - 6:00 pm, Scripps Ranch Library					
<b>THE VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA</b>					
Pres: Laura Hoke	390-9908				
9463 Quail Canyon Road					
El Cajon CA 92021-6709					
4th Thu - 10:00 am, Torrey Pines Christian Church, LJ					
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1390 Andorra Court					
Vista CA 92083-5017					
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Pres: Haruko Crawford	660-2046				
10411 San Carlos Drive					
Spring Valley CA 91778-1034					
<b>IKEBANA INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER</b>					
119					
Pres: Yoshie Sesma	279-2511				
2422 Harcourt Drive					
San Diego CA 92123-3608					
4th Wed - 10:00 am, Casa del Prado					
<b>IKENOBO CHAPTER OF SAN DIEGO</b>					
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2822 Walker Drive					
San Diego CA 92123-3056					
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<b>LA JOLLA CHAPTER</b>					
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P. O. Box 500765					
San Diego CA 92150-0765					
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<b>AFRICAN VIOLET SOCIETY</b>					
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7727 Tommy Drive, Apt. G9					
San Diego CA 92119-1729					
2nd Mon - 1:00 pm, Christ United Methodist Church, 33rd Street and Meade					
<b>BEGONIA</b>					
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<b>AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Eileen Clause	459-4706				
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La Jolla CA 92037-7538					
2nd Tue - 10:30 am, Home of Members					
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Pres: Ingsborg Foo	724-4871				
1050 Melrose Way					
Vista CA 92083-6504					
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Pres: Mrs. Eleanor Calkins	746-4743				
910 Fern Street					
Escondido CA 92027-1708					
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<b>HON NON BO ASSOCIATION</b>					
Pres: Lit Phan					
P. O. Box 235					
Alpine CA 91903-0235					
1st Sun every other month (begin Feb)					
10:30 am, Casa del Prado					
<b>SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB, INC.</b>					
Pres: Lew Buller	576-0515				
P. O. Box 40037					
San Diego CA 92164-0037					
2nd Sun - 11:00 am, Casa del Prado					
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<b>BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK</b>					
Pres: Ken Campos					
5033 Hilda Road					
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Pres: Joyce Brehm	277-1030				
5080 Dawne Street					
San Diego CA 92117-1351					
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<b>NORTH COUNTY BROMELIAD SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Morlane O'Donnell	422-8168				
4th Sun - 1:00 pm, Ecke Building, Quail Gardens					
<b>CACTUS &amp; SUCCULENT</b>					
<b>PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Ronald A. Chisum	753-3651				
P. O. Box 840					
Escondido CA 92033-0840					
4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Sr Ctr, Escondido					
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San Diego CA 92163-3181					
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<b>SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Gene Snooks	454-6659				
6114 La Jolla Boulevard					
La Jolla CA 92037-6702					
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Pres: Ruth Kern	223-6000				
1665 Froude Street					
San Diego CA 92107-3555					
4th Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado					
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<b>SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Phil Peck	491-9495				
P. O. Box 632911					
San Diego CA 92163-2911					
2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado					
<b>FERN</b>					
<b>SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY</b>					
Pres: Donald Callard	792-5662				
2201 El Amigo Road					
Del Mar CA 92014-3027					
3rd Thu - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado					
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Pres: Paul Phillips	670-9867				
4339 Resmar Road					
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## CLUB AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES (CONTINUED)

### FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANTS

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Pres: Richard Hubbell  
15420 Olde Highway 80, Space 175  
El Cajon CA 92021-2427  
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### GERANIUM

#### SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY

Pres: Cynthia Pardoe  
1105 Randon Road  
El Cajon CA 92020-7742  
2nd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### HEMEROCALLIS

#### SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Pres: Nancy Webb  
9382 Vons Drive  
Garden Grove CA 92641-1156  
1st Sat - 10:00 am, Quail Gardens

### HERB

#### THE HERB CLUB

Pres: Judy Dunning  
15255 Lyons Valley Road  
Jamul CA 91935-3416  
1st Thu - 7:00 pm, Call for location

### HOYA

#### SAN DIEGO HOYA GROUP

c/o: Harriette Schapiro  
5217 Cassandra Lane  
San Diego CA 92109-1314  
North County

### IRIS

#### SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

Pres: George Bange  
3493 Mt. Aachen Avenue  
San Diego CA 92111-4526  
2nd Sun - 1:00 pm - Jan/Mar/May/  
Jun/Aug/Nov - Joslyn Sr Ctr,  
18402 West Bernardo Road, RB

### IVY

#### THE AMERICAN IVY SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Johnny Stellini  
2775 A Street #C  
San Diego CA 92102-1043  
1st Mon - Casa del Prado

### NATIVE PLANTS

#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: Cindy Burrascano 685-7321

P. O. Box 1390

San Diego CA 92112-1390

3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

#### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Frisbie 741-0829  
2315 Paterson Road  
Escondido CA 92027-3812  
4th Mon - 2:00 pm - 16789 Bernardo Oaks Dr.,  
Seven Oaks Community Center, RB

### ORCHID

#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH

Pres: Ardell Marlin 753-6952  
310 Seeman Drive  
Encinitas CA 92024-2840  
3rd Wed - 7:00 pm, Carlsbad Woman's Club  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY  
Pres: Fred Weber 583-3992  
P. O. Box 161020  
San Diego CA 92176-1020  
1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### ORGANIC

#### BONITA ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB

Pres: Suzanne M. Mathews 426-3936  
816 Lehigh Avenue  
Chula Vista CA 91913-2713  
3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, Bonita Valley Baptist Church

### PALM

#### THE INTERNATIONAL PALM SOCIETY

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

Pres: Phil Bergman 291-4605  
Please call for Meeting dates

### ROSE

#### EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

571-1154 Pres: Coe Applegate 670-0644  
3976 Agua Dulce Boulevard  
La Mesa CA 91941-7044  
1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members  
SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY  
Pres: Phil Ash 235-0004  
P. O. Box 86124  
San Diego CA 92138-6124  
3rd Mon - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado

### TREES

#### PEOPLE FOR TREES

Pres: Tom Story 234-TREE  
P. O. Box 505 FAX 687-0151  
San Diego CA 92112-0505  
4th Tue - 6:30 pm, 743 Imperial Avenue

### WATER GARDEN

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER GARDEN SOCIETY

Contact: Walter Pagels 582-5408  
6073 Lancaster Drive  
San Diego CA 92120-4536

### PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES:

#### CLASSIC GARDENS 459-0316

P. O. Box 2711  
La Jolla CA 92038-2711

#### THE BOTANIC GARDEN OF SAN DIEGO

Pres: Rudy Cesena 566-7557  
P. O. Box 26729  
San Diego CA 92196-0729

### AFFILIATES:

Send changes to: Lynn Beyerle, Affiliates Editor  
*California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105,  
Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call  
232-5762.  
Deadline for Nov-Dec issue: Sep 15, 1996.

### Attention Affiliates . . .

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**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION TOUR  
LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW  
"GARDENS OF OUR WORLD"  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1996**

Staged at the fabulous grounds of the Los Angeles County Arboretum this year's show will re-create the most popular exhibits of shows past, including the Chelsea-like display gardens that will cover almost three acres. Spread throughout the show grounds will be the twenty-five designer landscapes. These could be a Danish, an Italian, an English, a Greek, an Icelandic, or a French garden.

Pavilions will hold flowery tablescapes by well-known interior designers. A rose gallery with arrangements by top floral designers will present tributes to celebrities who have had roses named in their honor. The hat gallery will celebrate milliners with an array of designer floral-decorated hats.

The Marketplace will feature garden items, while the Plant Market will be selling new plant materials introduced at the show. Lunch is included.

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW  
GARDENS OF OUR WORLD  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1996**

- ☐ \$37.00 Members (who pay dues to SDFA)  
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**PICK-UPS**

- ☐ Red Lobster Park/Ride, Grossmont Center, La Mesa 7:00AM  
☐ Mission Valley on Camino del Este south of B/A 7:30AM  
☐ Hadley's at Palomar Airport Road, Carlsbad 8:00AM

**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION  
BASKETRY, TOPIARY,  
AND FLOWER ARRANGING CLASSES  
CASA DEL PRADO, ROOM 104, BALBOA PARK  
9:30AM to 2:30PM**

Bring a lunch, coffee will be provided  
CALL MARIE WALSH, 298-5182 OR 232-5762

**PLEASE PREREGISTER!**

**Basket Craft Classes**

**BASKETRY GET-TOGETHER,**

Tuesday, September 10

Instructor, Kathy Walsh, Fee \$5 for renewing old basket, \$10 for one new basket, \$15 for two.  
Make an ivy-over-wire, easy Random Weave basket.  
All materials provided. Bring tools, gloves.

**NEW! CALIFORNIA NATIVE MATERIAL COIL BASKET,**

Tuesday, September 17

Instructor, Martha Rosenberg and Kathy Walsh Fee \$20 per basket. Materials provided to construct an 8- to 10-inch basket. Bring clippers and apron.

**CHOICE OF POTATO, APPALACHIAN, OR  
THREE-RING LARGE BASKET**

Tuesdays, October 22 and 29

Instructor Martha Rosenberg, K & M Walsh assisting,  
FEE \$30 for Floral members, \$35 for non-members.  
Materials provided. Bring clippers and bucket.

**Flower Arranging**

**BASIC AMERICAN CONTEMPORARY FLOWER  
ARRANGING,**

Tuesdays, September 24, October 1 and 8

Instructor, Velma West, Fee \$35 for 3 classes.  
No materials provided. Bring two or more vases,  
flowers, mechanics, clippers, and bucket.

**Topiary**

**TEN-INCH SUCCULENT WREATH**

Tuesday, October 15

Instructor, Kathy Walsh FEE \$20  
Prepare for the holidays — a living arrangement  
All materials furnished. Bring clippers and apron.

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